

REMARKS

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicants ask that all claims be examined. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eric L. Prah

Reg. No. 32,590

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 1-21 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An appliance [(10) of] for personal use [such as a toothbrush, an oral irrigator, a shaver, a kitchen machine, with] comprising:
a driving mechanism [constructed as] including an electric motor [(12)]; and [with]
a control stage [(14)] for [the] controlling a supply of energy from an energy supply [(16)] to the electric motor [(12) characterized in that] wherein the control stage is configured to during off-periods of the electric motor [(12) the control stage (14) supplies] supply the electric motor with an energy signal which is adapted in particular in terms of duration and/or amplitude [and which] to cause the electric motor [(12), when] while off and in [its] a capacity as an electroacoustic transducer, to emit[s at least in part in the form of] audible signals.
2. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the electric motor [(12)] is [constructed as] a low-duty motor comprising a rotor and a stator[, for example, as a direct-current motor].
3. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the electric motor [(12)] is [constructed as] an asynchronous, synchronous, stepping, reluctance motor [or the like].
4. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the control stage [(14)] during operation feeds an analog signal[s] to the electric motor [(12)].
5. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the analog signal[, for example a voltage signal,] contains [the] a spectrum of the audible signals to be emitted by the electric motor [(12)].

6. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim [4 or] 5, [characterized in that] wherein the analog signal contains frequency mixes[, for example to generate] for generating at least one of audible speech [or] and music signals from the motor.

7. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the analog signal is a unipolar signal [(18)].

8. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the claims 1 to 6] claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the analog signal is a bipolar signal [(20)].

9. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims 1 to 3] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein during operation the control stage [(14)] feeds digital signals to the electric motor [(12)].

10. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the digital signals are pulse-duration-modulated signals [(22)] and have [in particular] an essentially constant maximum amplitude.

11. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 9 [or 10], [characterized in that the] wherein the digital signals have a fundamental frequency [of the digital signal] that represents the pitch of the audible signals.

12. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein the energy signal has a time average [(24) of the signal (18, 20, 22)] that lies below a signal threshold value [(26)] that causes the electric motor [(12)] to start up.

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13. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the signal threshold value [(26)] varies in response to the signal frequency [and in particular rises with the frequency].

14. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the energy signal [(18, 20, 22)] has no frequencies below a frequency threshold value that causes the electric motor [(12)] to start up.

15. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that provision is made for] wherein the control stage is configured to generate a time delay between the instant the electric motor [(12)] is shut off as a driving mechanism and the instant the electric motor [(12)] is operated as an electroacoustic transducer.

16. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the electric motor [(12)] has a brake [(28) for example a mechanical brake with a constant braking torque, or a start-up brake with a braking torque that decreases after the motor starts up].

17. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the electric motor [(12)] has a rotor and a device [(30)] for positioning the rotor in a defined position of rest when the motor is off.

18. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein, for optimization of the efficiency in terms of acoustic power output, the electric motor [(12)] is equipped with an accordingly adapted motor housing or motor housing material.

19. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that provision is made for] further comprising at least one of

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ribs, hard parts [or similar] and mechanical elements [(32)] located between the [appliance (10) or appliance] housing [(34)] and the electric motor [(12)] to optimize the acoustic emission of the appliance [(10) or appliance housing (34)].

20. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the control stage [(14) is formed by] comprises a signal generator and a driving stage [(36)] that [is connected] connects to the energy supply [(16)] on [the] one side and to [a] the signal generator [(38)] on the other side [and, where applicable, to additional electronic components].

21. (Once Amended) The appliance [(10)] as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that it] wherein the appliance is constructed as one of a toothbrush, an oral irrigator, a shaver, and a household machine [or the like].

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